

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT:WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -MARCH 5 - 11, 1976

FOR SECSTATE EA/PHL

USIA - IEA

CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. SAME GAME, NEW PLAYERS? - NEWSPAPERS THIS WEEK CARRIED UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF STORIES REVEALING CORRUPTION OR OTHER MISDEEDS BY MEMBERS OF AFP, INCLUDING OUSTER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CAMP OLIVAS STOCKADE, BREAK-UP OF CRIMINAL RING HEADED BY PC SERGEANT, AND PERSISTENT FEUDING (INCLUDING SHOOT-OUTS) BETWEEN ARMY AND PC DETACHMENTS IN NORTHERN MINDANAO. NOT REPORTED, HOWEVER, WERE A ROBBERY ON CLARK AFB INVOLVING AT LEAST TWO UNIFORMED PC NON-COMS IN THE COURSE OF WHICH ONE PC SERGEANT ATTEMPTED TO GUN DOWN AN AIR POLICEMAN (HIS GUN MISFIRED AND HE WAS WOUNDED IN SHOULDER BY AIRMAN) NOR THE DELIVERY OF A PETITION SIGNED BY AN ECUMENICAL GROUP OF CHURCHMEN CALLING FOR A RENEWED INVESTIGATION INTO THE SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH OF AN MARAKINA SHOEMAKER DURING A VISIT TO CAMP CRAME AT THE "INVITATION" OF A PC MAJOR. (THE MAJOR'S DRIVER, A TENANT

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OF THE DEMISED, HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE VICTIM TO VACATE HIS

APARTMENT AND APPARENTLY DECIDED TO RETALIATE). EARLY ON, PAPERS CARRIED REPEATED "WARNINGS" BY DEFENSE SECRETARY JUAN PONCE-ENRILE THAT CORRUPTION IN MILITARY WOULD BE RUTHLESSLY ROOTED OUT, AND BY WEEK'S END PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR SHAKE-UPS IN AFP HIGH COMMAND.

COMMENT: DESPITE FUSS AND FANFARE, MANY FILIPINOS REMAIN DUBIOUS THAT FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS WILL BE EFFECTED AND ARE CONVINCED THAT WHATEVER EMERGES WILL AMOUNT TO MORE OF THE SAME WITH A REVISED CAST OF CHARACTERS.

2. ALLEGE U.S. BASE OFFICIALS UNCOOPERATIVE - ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE TIMES-JOURNAL WAGED ITS OWN CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT SUBIC NAVAL VASE OFFICIALS, ALLEGING THEY WERE NOT COOPERATING WITH LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO STOP BLACKMARKETING OF PX GOODS. TWO FRONTPAGE ARTICLES BASED ON COMPLAINTS BY THE MANILA CUSTOMS COLLECTOR RAN UNDER THE HEADS "PX BLACKMARKET CHECK BID IGNORED," AND "BASE OFFICIAL LINKED TO PX BLACKMARKET." AN EDITORIAL REINFORCED THE STORY.

COMMENT: JOURNAL'S STORIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN CALCULATED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MISDEEDS OF LOCAL OFFICIALS. IN ANY EVENT THEY ARE APPEARING AT A TIME UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO THE INAUGURATION OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1. FORD VISIT PAMPHLET OFF PRESS - POST THIS WEEK RECEIVED ITS FIRST ADVANCE COPIES OF "PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD: NEW COMMITMENT TO ASIA," A POST-PRODUCED PAMPHLET AND INSERT TO HORIZONS NO. 14, ON THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES. THE PAMPHLET IS A PICTORIAL RECORD OF THE DECEMBER VISIT LACED WITH SELECTED PRESIDENTIAL QUOTATIONS AIMED AT REASSURING FILIPINOS ABOUT AMERICA'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT. ITS BRIEF TEXT FOCUSES ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PACIFIC DOCTRINE ADDRESS. DISTRIBUTION THROUGH HORIZONS WILL REACH THE POST'S PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AUDIENCES, AND THE PAMPHLET WILL BE USED FOR WIDER SELECTIVE DISTRIBUTION.
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2. CEBU MARINE SCIENCE SEMINAR PRODUCTIVE - USIS CEBU 20-SPONSORED WITH REGION VII OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON MARINE RESOURCES ON MARCH 4. THIS SEMINAR, WHICH FEATURED CAPT. MARVIN DUKE, NAVAL ATTACHE FROM TOKYO, AND DR. PETER ASHBY, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE IN JAPAN, AND A PANEL OF FILIPINOS PROMINENT IN THE FIELDS OF BIOLOGY AND MARINE RESOURCES AS

DISCUSSANTS, WAS ATTENDED BY A SMALL, HIGH LEVEL AUDIENCE. INCLUDED IN THE AUDIENCE OF ABOUT FIFTY PEOPLE WERE THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE NSBD, THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND THE BUREAU OF MINES, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOLS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MARINE RESEARCH, SPECIFICALLY THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS AND SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOLS IN MINDANAO (MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY AND XAVIER UNIVERSITY) ALSO ATTENDED. THOSE PRESENT LAUDED THE VALUE OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS INVITED THE SPEAKERS TO SPEND THE MORNING OF MARCH 5 AT ITS MARINE RESEARCH STATION.

3. CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE ARRIVES - THE CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE ARRIVED MARCH 10 AND WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY MANILA NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS. THEIR FIRST DAY WAS MARKED BY A RADIO INTERVIEW AND LUNCHEON - PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO PRESENT THREE CONCERTS. THE CCE'S FIRST CONCERT TONIGHT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A LARGE RECEPTION (300 GUESTS) HOSTED BY MINISTER LEE STULL. DESPITE BETTER THAN AVERAGE PUBLICITY, HOWEVER, TICKET SALES REMAIN AT A LOW EBB. THE POST IS EXPLORING NUMEROUS WAYS TO ATTRACT AUDIENCES TO THE 1800-SEAT CONCERT HALL WITH AS YET UNDETERMINED SUCCESS.
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